Kind READER,

I Have now serv'd you three Apprenticeships, yet, old as I am, I have no Inclination to quit your Service, but should be glad to be able to continue in it three times three Apprenticeships longer.

The first *Astrologers* I think, were honest Husbandmen; and so it seems are the last; for my Brethren *Jerman* and *Moore*, and myself, the only remaining Almanack makers of this Country, are all of that Class: Tho' in intermediate Times our Art has been cultivated in great Cities, and even in the Courts of Princes; witness History, from the Days of King NEBUCHADNEZZAR I. of *Babylon*, to those of Queen JAMES I. of *England*.-----But you will ask, perhaps, how I prove that the first Astrologers were Countrymen?---I own this is a Matter beyond the Memory of History, for Astrology was before Letters; but I prove it from the Book of the Heavens, from the Names of the twelve Signs, which were mostly given to remark some Circumstance relative to rural Affairs, in the several successive Months of the Year, and by that Means to supply the Want of Almanacks.------Thus, as the Year of the Ancients began most naturally with the Spring, *Aries* and *Taurus*, that is, the Ram and the Bull, represented the successive Addition to their Flocks of Sheep and Kine, by their Produce in that Season, Lambs and Calves.-----*Gemini* were originally the Kids, but called the Twins, as Goats more commonly bring forth two than one: These follow'd the Calves. ---*Cancer*, the Crab, came next, when that Kind of Fish were in Season.----Then follow'd *Leo*, the Lion, and *Virgo*, the Wench, to mark the Summer Months, and Dog-days, when those Creatures were most mischievous. In Autumn comes first *Libra*, the Ballance, to point out the Time for weighing and selling the Summer's Produce; or rather, a Time of Leisure for holding Courts of Justice in which they might plague themselves and Neighbours; I know some suppose this Sign to signify the equal Poise, at that Time, of Day and Night; but the other Signification is the truer, as plainly appears by the following Sign *Scorpio*, or the Scorpion, with the Sting in his Tail, which certainly denotes the Paying of Costs.----Then follows *Sagittary*, the Archer, to show the Season of Hunting; for now the Leaves being off the Trees and Bushes, the Game might be more easily seen and struck with their Arrows. ----The *Goat* accompanies the short Days and long Nights of Winter, to shew the Season of Mirth, Feasting and Jollity; for what can *Capricorn* mean, but Dancing or Cutting of *Capers*?----At length comes *Aquarius*, or the Water-bearer, to show the Season of Snows, Rains and Floods; and lastly *Pisces*, or the two Shads, to denote the approaching Return of those Fish up the Rivers: Make your Weirs, haul your Seins; Catch 'em and pickle 'em, my Friends; they are excellent Relishers of old Cyder.----But if you can't get Shad, Mackrell may do better.

I know, gentle Readers, that many of you always expect a Preface, and think yourselves slighted if that's omitted. So here you have it, and much good may't do ye. As little as it is to the Purpose, there are many less so, now-a-days.----I have left out, you see, all the usual Stuff about the *Importunity of Friends*, and the like, or I might have made it much bigger. You think, however, that 'tis big enough o'Conscience, for any Matter of Good that's in it; --I think so too, if it fills the Page, which is the Needful at present, from

Your loving Friend to serve, R. SAUNDERS.

IN our Almanack for 1750, we gave the Number of Inhabitants in *New-Jersey*, as taken 1737-8, and 1745, by which it appear'd that the Total of all Ages, Sexes and Colours, amounted in 1737-8, to - - - 47369
in 1745, to - - - 61403
Which makes an Increase in seven Years of - 14034
being almost one Third, tho' that is a Province into which there are but few direct Importations of Strangers.

In 1699 an Account was taken of the Freeholders in *West-Jersey*, by which it appear'd that there were, *viz.*

In *Burlington* County, and *Maidenhead*,	302
In *Gloucester*, and *Egg-Harbour*, - -	134
In *Salem* County, - - -	326
In *Cape-May* County, - -	70
In all, Freeholders,	832
If we suppose six Souls to each Freeholder,	6
There might then be in *West-Jersey*, Souls,	4992

In 1745 there were in the same Counties, *viz.*

	Souls.
Burlington, *Hunterdon* and *Morris*, which were in 1699 all *Burlington* County, - -	20280
Gloucester, which includes *Egg Harbour*,	3506
Salem, - - - -	6847
Cape-May, - - - -	1188
In all, Souls,	31821

By which it appears that *West-Jersey* has increased in Forty-six Years, more than six for one; tho' some of its Counties are from their Situation reckoned not very healthy.

A Receipt for curing GAMMONS, *in the best Manner.*

FOR three Dozen of Hams, take common Salt, and Sugar, twelve Pounds of each, Salt-petre six Pounds, rub it on the Hams after it is powder'd fine, and let them stand a Week; then make a Lye, of a Bushel of Wood Ashes, with as much common Salt as will make it strong enough to bear an Egg; let the Hams lie in it three or four Weeks: Boil the Lye well, and skim it till it is clear, and let it cool, before you pour it on the Hams. When you smoke them, rub them with Bran till they are dry.----This Lye will serve for your hung Beef, or Tongues, after being boiled over again and skim'd.

Note, Gammons thus cured, will fetch a good Price, for Exportation.

The Planet VENUS is Morning-Star until the End of *March*, afterwards Evening-Star to the Year's End.